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Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
Scientific and Technical Subcommittee
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Draft report

Annex I

Report of the Working Group of the Whole

1. In accordance with paragraph 8 of General Assembly resolution 70/82, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, at its fifty-third session, reconvened its Working Group of the Whole.

2. From 19 to 23 February 2016, the Working Group held three meetings, under the chairmanship of Chiaki Mukai (Japan). The Working Group considered the following items:

(a) Fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE+50): theme of the sessions of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, its Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and its Legal Subcommittee in 2018;

(b) Space technology for socioeconomic development in the context of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and the post-2015 development agenda;

(c) Draft provisional agenda for the fifty-fourth session of the Subcommittee, to be held in 2017.

3. At its fourth meeting, on [...] February, the Working Group adopted the present report.

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I. Fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space: theme of the sessions of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, its Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and its Legal Subcommittee in 2018

4. For its consideration of the item on UNISPACE+50, the Working Group had before it the following documents:

(a) Note by the Secretariat entitled "Fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space: theme of the sessions of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, its Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and its Legal Subcommittee in 2018" (A/AC.105/L.297);

(b) Conference room paper entitled "Fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space: the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and global space governance (A/AC.105/C.1/2016/CRP.4);

(c) Conference room paper entitled "UNISPACE+50 thematic priorities: proposal submitted by the Steering Committee of UNISPACE+50" (A/AC.105/C.1/2016/CRP.18);

(d) Statement by the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs on behalf of the UNISPACE+50 Steering Committee.

5. At the first meeting of the Working Group, the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, in her capacity as Chair of the UNISPACE+50 Steering Committee, informed the Working Group on the status of preparations for UNISPACE+50 in 2018, recalling that the General Assembly in its resolution 70/82 welcomed the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, to be commemorated in 2018, which would be an opportunity to consider the current status and chart the future of the contribution of the Committee to global space governance, and for which the Committee and its subsidiary bodies had set in motion the preparatory work for their thematic sessions in 2018.

6. The Working Group noted the progress of work by the UNISPACE+50 Steering Committee for the preparations for UNISPACE+50, which had been established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 70/82, and was composed of the members of the bureaux of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies (the Group of 15), the Chairs of the working groups of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies and the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs. The Working Group also noted that the UNISPACE+50 Steering Committee had adopted its terms of reference, which had been made available to the Subcommittee in the annex to the statement by the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs on behalf of UNISPACE+50 Steering Committee.

7. The Working Group recalled that the Committee, at its fifty-eighth session in 2015, had endorsed the plan of work of UNISPACE+50, as contained in document A/AC.105/L.297.

8. In accordance with the above-mentioned workplan and on the basis of the thematic priorities proposed by the UNISPACE+50 Steering Committee, as contained in A/AC.105/C.1/2016/CRP.18, the Working Group recommended the following thematic priorities, summarized below, for further consideration by the Legal Subcommittee at its fifty-fifth session, to be held from 4 to 15 April 2016, as well as for further consideration and final agreement by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space at its fifty-ninth session, to be held from 8 to 17 June 2016:

1. Global partnership in space exploration and innovation

Objective: Raise awareness of space exploration and innovation as essential drivers for opening up new domains in space science and technology, triggering new partnerships and developing capabilities that create new opportunities for addressing global challenges. Foster dialogue with space industry and the private sector. Promote cooperation between spacefaring nations and emerging space nations. Allow space exploration activities to become open and inclusive on a global scale. Identify governance and cooperation mechanisms to support this objective.

2. International framework for space weather services

Objective: Strengthen the ability to depend on space systems and to respond to the impact of adverse space weather. Develop a space weather road map for international coordination and information exchange on space weather events and their mitigation, through risk analysis and assessment of user needs. Recognize space weather as a global challenge and the need to address the vulnerability of society as a whole. Increase awareness through developed communication, capacity-building and outreach. Identify governance and cooperation mechanisms to support this objective.

3. Strengthened space cooperation for global health

Objective: Improve the use of space technologies and space-based information and systems in the global health domain. Promote enhanced cooperation and sharing of information in emergencies, epidemics and early warning events, as well as on environmental parameters. Enhance capability in integrating health data in disaster management plans. Strengthen capacity-building in advancing space technologies in global health efforts. Identify governance and cooperation mechanisms to support this objective.

4. International cooperation towards low-emission and resilient societies

Objective: Define synergies between climate change mitigation efforts, disaster risk reduction and global development. Develop a road map for enhanced resiliency of space-based systems and the affiliation of existing and future Earth observation, global navigation satellite system and telecommunication constellations for disaster risk reduction and climate change monitoring and mitigation. Improve integrated space applications approaches and the interoperability of space-based systems and ground/in situ systems. Provide requirements to new developers for coverage in geographical

areas not sufficiently monitored or applications that need further development. Identify governance and cooperation mechanisms to support this objective.

5. Enhanced information exchange on space objects and events

Objective: Define and develop requirements for enhanced information exchange and notification procedures under the United Nations Register of Objects Launched into Outer Space, taking into account the recommendations contained in the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on Transparency and Confidence-Building Measures in Outer Space Activities (A/68/189) and the future guidelines for the long-term sustainability of outer space activities specifically addressing risk reduction notification needs. Identify governance mechanisms to support this objective. Encourage capacity-building and outreach activities on transparency and confidence-building measures.

6. Capacity-building for the twenty-first century

Objective: Define new innovative and effective approaches to overall capacity-building and development needs as a fundamental pillar of global space governance. Strengthen comprehensive capacity-building and outreach activities of the Office for Outer Space Affairs. Develop infrastructure for cross-sectoral and integrated applications, with combined scientific, technical, legal and policy outputs. Enhance existing partnerships and forge new ones to strengthen and deliver targeted capacity-building and technical advisory activities based on needs assessment.

9. The Working Group noted that the thematic priorities above were interlinked and it was therefore recommended that the connection between the respective objectives be observed in the progress of work. It was foreseen that the Committee and its Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and Legal Subcommittee should coordinate and cooperate in arriving at a common output through the UNISPACE+50 process.

10. The Working Group noted that the Legal Subcommittee's Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space could be an appropriate venue to further consider inputs by the Legal Subcommittee to the thematic priorities listed above. The Working Group agreed that those thematic priorities constituted a good basis for the UNISPACE+50 process and that it was pertinent to combine them with relevant legal perspectives.

11. The Working Group took note of suggestions for other areas that could be considered by the Legal Subcommittee, as appropriate, such as (a) space traffic management, with possible connection to international law perspectives on small and very small satellite activities and suborbital flights; and (b) addressing legal gaps in the existing treaties on outer space, including in the areas of definition and delimitation of outer space, and commercial mining of resources in outer space.

12. The Working Group commended the Office for Outer Space Affairs for its efficient preparation of the documentation in preparation for UNISPACE+50, including conference room papers A/AC.105/C.1/2016/CRP.4 and A/AC.105/C.1/2016/CRP.18. In that regard, the Working Group noted that A/AC.105/C.1/2016/CRP.4, which contained a historical overview of UNISPACE conferences and connected the resulting mandates and programmes with the way

forward towards UNISPACE+50, would be made available at the upcoming respective sessions of the Legal Subcommittee and the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in 2016. Thereafter, that document would be updated accordingly, and the Office for Outer Space Affairs had taken due note of the suggestions made. The final version of the document would be circulated in the six official languages of the United Nations at the sessions of the Committee and its Subcommittees in 2017.

II. Space technology for socioeconomic development in the context of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and the post-2015 development agenda

13. For its consideration of the item on space technology for socioeconomic development in the context of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and the post-2015 development agenda, the Working Group had before it a conference room paper entitled "Second Meeting of the Expert Group on Space and Global Health, 18-19 February 2016: progress report on the activities of the expert group and future considerations" (A/AC.105/C.1/2016/CRP.21).

14. The Working Group noted that the expert group on space and global health, established by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space at its fifty-seventh session in 2014, had held its second meeting on the margins of the Subcommittee's session, on 18 and 19 February 2016, under the able leadership of Canada, to advance its workplan as presented at the fifty-second session of the Subcommittee (A/AC.105/C.1/2015/CRP.29).

15. The Working Group noted that the expert group had reviewed and discussed various key activities held during the past year with relevance to the application of space science and technology to global health issues and discussed the approaches to strengthen the efforts of the space community to bring tangible support to the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

16. The Working Group further noted that the expert group had discussed activities relevant to space and global health for the next year and the engagement in those activities with a broader set of stakeholders. The expert group had also taken note of efforts to find innovative ways to promote the development and application of space technologies to support global health as a public good.

17. The Working Group welcomed with appreciation that the expert group had elected Antoine Geissbühler of Switzerland as the co-chair of the expert group.

III. Draft provisional agenda for the fifty-fourth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee

18. The Working Group of the Whole noted that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 70/82, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee would submit to the Committee its proposal for the draft provisional agenda for the fifty-fourth session of the Subcommittee, to be held in 2017, and recommended that in view of the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the

United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, held from 25 to 27 September 2015, the current agenda item of the Subcommittee titled "Space technology for socioeconomic development in the context of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and the post-2015 development agenda" be renamed "Space for sustainable socioeconomic development".